

[Type text]

**Dumont Shade Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Dumont Senior Center, Monday, April 15, 2013 7:30pm**

Sunshine Law: The Dumont Shade Tree Commission has complied with the open public meeting act, having sent notice to The Record, Ridgewood news and filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted on the Borough's Official Bulletin Board

**Present:**, Ray Slaman, Abbie Slaman, Tom Fisichella, Larry Tobias, Sally Tayeb Council Liaison Bill Brophy

**Guests:** Ada Smith, Ann Marie Scott, Tara Barker, Kathy Sheridan Parrish, David Zgonbick, Michael Kuhn, Gary Caputo, Ken (sp)

**Absent:** Ryan Metz

- 1- Motion to approve the previous February meeting minutes by Larry and second by Tom. All approve. March meeting did not achieve a quorum so there are no official minutes. An informal meeting was held to discuss Arbor Day and other matters.
- 2- **Arbor Day discussion** – 8<sup>th</sup> annual event being held 4-27-13 at the Arboretum on West Shore Ave. 1:00pm. Review of agenda and responsibilities. Ray said he arranged for Nicole DeMarco, a Selzer School 7<sup>th</sup> grader, to sing the National Anthem Her Father will provide the necessary sound equipment. Ray will bring snacks and water. A partial donation for the cause was secured from Stop and Shop. Kathy has a new American Flag and has confirmed arrangements with Boy Scouts troop 64 and 1345 as well as contacting other troops in Dumont. Kathy has organized the art contest and the judges. She will bring the artwork to Arbor Day. Tara is helping with the art contest and arranging the winners' gifts. Tara has the new Tree City USA flag to be raised on Arbor Day. Abbie has purchased a WHITE OAK from Victoria's Nursery for planting. It will be delivered 4-26-13. Bill Brophy will present the Arbor Day award to the Scouts. The council and mayor have been invited to participate in the groundbreaking for the new Arboretum walkway. All arrangements seem to be in order.
- 3- **Open Discussion invitation to the public** - Visit by 2 homeowners to discuss a town tree at 28 Cedar Road. Gary Caputo and Ken (sp) shared concerns about the health and safety of the tree. Tom Fisichella told them he had visited the tree on several occasions and discussed in detail the present status of the tree, the general and specific characteristics of the tree and the sidewalk and wires. He discussed the attributes that are examined to determine if a tree is healthy and safe or represents a safety risk. He mentioned that this tree shows no signs of disease of insect infestation; that it shows no structural defects; that the sidewalk is not lifting; that there is no evidence that the anchor roots are compromised; that it does not meet the accepted risk of a greater than 15 degree lean (it is less than 7 degrees). Ray had inspected the tree as well and confirmed the findings. The homeowners were told that the tree would be trimmed and monitored over the next 12 months for any changes to its status that might require further action.
- 4- **Regular Business** –

[Type text]

- a. Tree maintenance. Tom reviewed briefly the current tree issues. We are generally up to date on requests and homeowner issues. DPW has secured a stump grinder and will try to complete many of the stump removals as possible.
- b. iTree – Larry provided an update on the platform and requirements to gather tree data. Mike offered to help with the application and look for ways to add to the database. Tom enlisted Dave Zgonbick to help with “windshield tree inventory.” Discussion of other volunteers to help with the inventory.
- c. Adopt-a-tree. Ray discussed the spring planting. A bid from NJTF met the criteria for price and planting guidelines so 24 trees were ordered from NJTF. Three additional trees were ordered for planting in advance of the Adopt-a-tree dates; one WHITE OAK for planting at the Arboretum on Arbor day, one LITTLE LEAF LINDEN for planting at 55 Sherwood Road to be filmed by Channel 7 ABC consumer reporter Nina Pineda as part of her investigation of a homeowner complaint about town policy on Borough trees, and a DAWN REDWOOD planted on Holt Street at Sherwood Road to replace a tree damaged by vandalism last fall. Adopt-a-tree planting will be done at the end of May. Ada Smith discussed her efforts for new requests and provided an updated list of several homes on Dumont Ave and Thompson Street.
- d. Community outreach – tabled
- e. Video Series – tabled
- 5 **New members** – we welcomed several people who expressed interest in participating in DSTC. There were 14 people in attendance at the meeting.
- 6 **Email list** discussed updating and consolidating contact lists.
- 7 **Friends of the Shade Tree** progress has been stalled. Ryan has the final paperwork but has not attended the past several meetings. Agree to reach out to Ryan and close the process for FSTC. Sally agreed to contact Ryan and close out the paperwork.
- 8 **Arboretum discussion** – Plans are moving ahead for walkway and gazebo. Plan is for the work to begin the week following Arbor Day. The town engineer and the construction foreman will be at Arbor Day for the groundbreaking ceremony. Final questions have been answered and work is approved to begin. Tom will consult with contractors during the construction and be on hand to coordinate and answer questions.
- 9 **New Commissioner request** – A discussion to fill the DSTC seat left vacant by the resignation of Rafael Riquelme. Kathy Sheridan Parish expressed an interest in joining the commission. It was decided unanimously to put her name forward to the Mayor for consideration with the full recommendation of the present voting members. Ray will officially hand up the request to the Mayor’s office.
- 10 **GRANT APPLICATION** – 2013 CSIP Grant application is being written by Sally Tayeb. She solicited opinion about the request and how we should approach the application. She reviewed the criteria for approval in the competitive bid. It was decided that we would request funding for a new stump grinder to help with recycling of trees and material, increase education to improve community involvement. She will complete the process and submit by the deadline of May 31. Final review at the May meeting.

Adjourned 9:15pm